

REPORT
OF
THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

IN

Relation to the occupation of Fort Armstrong as a military post.

JANUARY 3, 1848.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, December 30, 1847.

SIR: In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 22d instant, requiring the Secretary of War "to inform the Senate if Fort Armstrong, on Rock Island, in the State of Illinois, is now occupied as a military post; and, if not, how long the same has been abandoned as such post; and if abandoned, in whose charge the same is, and on what terms; and also that he communicate his opinion if the interest of the government require that said site should be reserved from sale for military purposes," I have the honor to transmit, herewith, reports from the adjutant general, the acting chief of ordnance, and the quartermaster general, containing the information desired, and to state that, in my opinion, the interest of the government do not require that said site be longer reserved from sale for military purposes.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

HON. GEORGE M. DALLAS,
President of the Senate.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, December 24, 1847.

SIR: In answer to the resolution of the Senate of the 22d instant, referred by you to this office for report, I have the honor to state, that Fort Armstrong, on Rock Island, Illinois, was evacuated May 4, 1836, in pursuance of "general orders" No. 9, dated January

25, 1836, and that it has not since been garrisoned. It was subsequently used by the ordnance department as a depot, on a small scale, for arms and munitions; but it is understood the stores were all removed some years since, and the post is probably now in charge of the quartermaster's department.

Rock Island is not believed to be of any value for military purposes, and is considered as finally abandoned.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

R. JONES, *Adjutant General.*

Hon. W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

ORDNANCE OFFICE,
Washington, December 23, 1847.

SIR: I have the honor to report, in relation to the resolution of the Senate of the 22d instant, referred by you to this office, that the records of this office do not show when the garrison was withdrawn from Fort Armstrong, on Rock Island. After its garrison had, however, been withdrawn, viz: in the summer of 1841, it was by direction of the Secretary of War made the depot for a small supply of arms, for the use of such militia as might be called out in consequence of Indian hostilities then threatened. On the 1st of March, 1843, it being in contemplation to remove these arms to Prairie du Chien, or Saint Louis, the Secretary of War, under authority of the act of 3d March, 1819, entitled "An act authorizing the sale of certain military sites," directed the island to be advertised for sale, in four separate tracts, on the first day of the following June; but, on the 4th of May, it was directed that the sale should be suspended till further orders. The stores and store-keeper were withdrawn from the island in April, 1845, and it is presumed that it is in charge of the quartermaster's department.

As far as regards the ordnance department, I consider it no longer necessary for military purposes.

The resolution is herewith returned.

With great respect, I am sir, your obedient servant,

G. TALCOTT,
Lieutenant Colonel, Ordnance.

Hon. W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington City, December 27, 1847.

SIR: I have the honor to state, in reply to the resolution of the Senate of the 22d instant, that Fort Armstrong, on Rock Island, is now in the charge of this department. An agent, Thomas L. Drane, is employed at a compensation of fifteen dollars per month

to take care of it. It is of no further use to the public as a military site, and I recommend that it be transferred to the land department.

I am, sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,

Quartermaster General.

The Hon. W. L. MARCY,

Secretary of War, Washington City.

to the effect of the fact that no further action is to be taken
the same is to be referred to the local board
most of the members of the board are not present
I am the president of the board and I am
The Hon. W. J. Stewart
Secretary of the Board
Washington City

...